

REMARKS

In the Office Action claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9 and 10 are rejected as being anticipated by De Luccia, U.S. Patent 6,322,039, claims 3 and 8 are rejected as being obvious over De Luccia and claims 4, 5, 11 are rejected as being obvious over De Luccia in view of Brindisi, U.S. Patent 6,461,210.

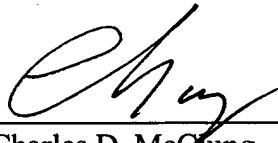
It is respectfully submitted that the first face in De Luccia (the top most surface of the clip) does not angle inwardly and forwardly from the first side, but merely angles inwardly. Likewise, the second face in De Luccia does not angle inwardly and rearwardly, but only angles inwardly. Because the first face angles inwardly and forwardly from the first side and the second face angles inwardly and rearwardly from the second side, as is recited in claim 1, the first and second angles necessarily are acute angles, whereas the first and second angle in the clip showing in De Luccia is a right angle. While it is submitted that this is inherent in claim 1 as filed, claim 1 has been amended to state that the first and second angles are acute angles. This difference is not merely a matter of design preference, as indicated by the Examiner in the obviousness objection of claims 3 and 8, but is at the essence of applicant's invention. Clips of the type shown in De Luccia, having right angle first and second faces, are capable of carrying a very limited load. Two clip pieces will never have the exact same dimension, due to tolerances built into any manufacturing process. As a result, only one of the two faces of the piece of clip attached to the wall will contact the mating face on the piece of clip attached to the object being hung. The Z-shape of the clip of the subject invention, on the other hand, by having the first and second faces be at an acute angle, creates a seating action where the entire contact surface

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uniformly carries the load. There is nothing in De Luccia, or for that matter in Brindisi, which suggest that making the first and second faces of the clip of De Luccia be at an acute angle rather than a right angle. As a result, not only is claim 1 not anticipated by De Luccia, it is not obvious over De Luccia either alone or in combination with Brindisi. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claim 1 is allowable. Since claims 2-11 depend from claim 1, these claims should be allowable also.

It is respectfully requested that claims 1-11 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,




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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 6, 2004.

Dated: December 6, 2004



Charles D. McClung